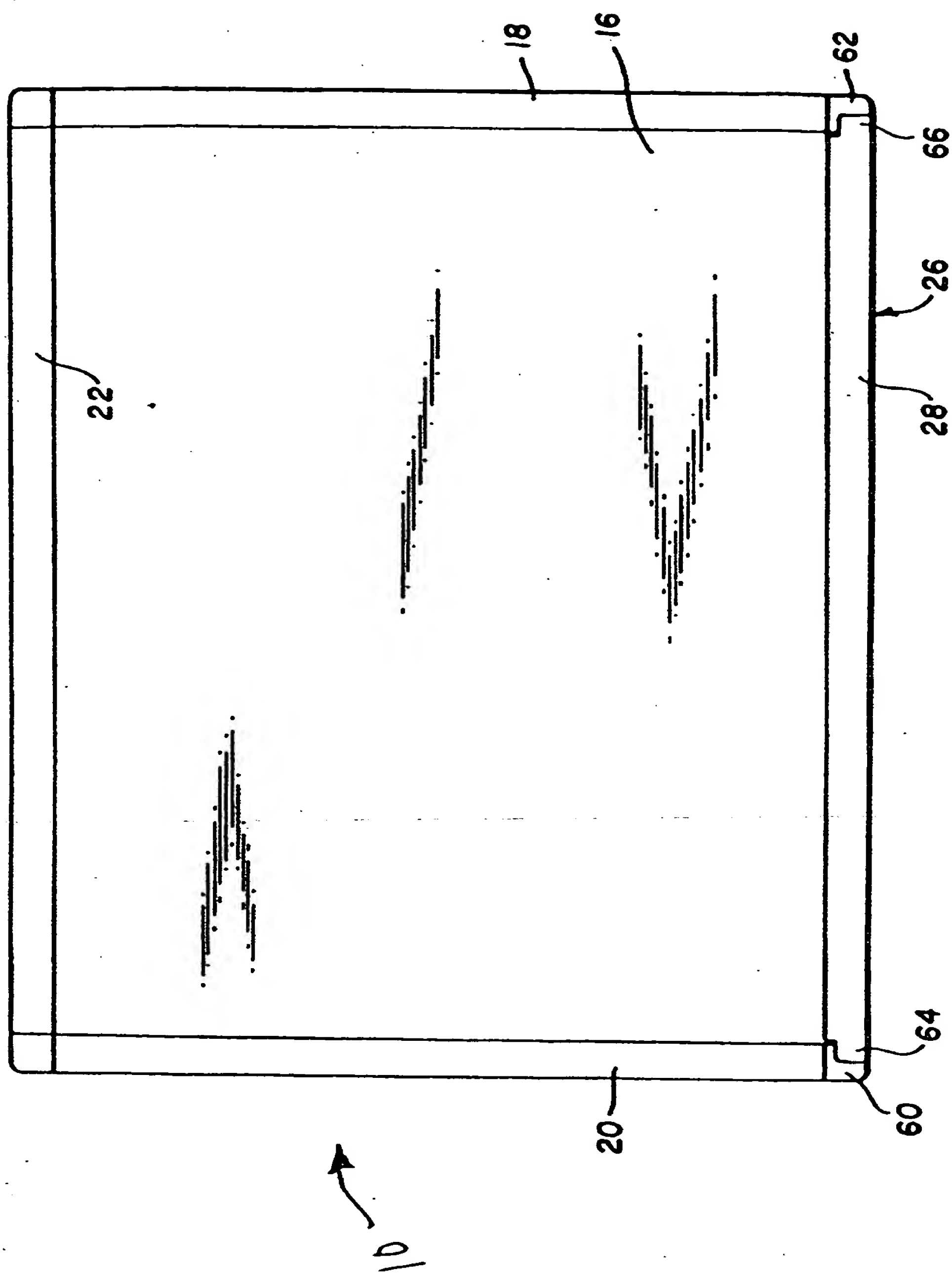
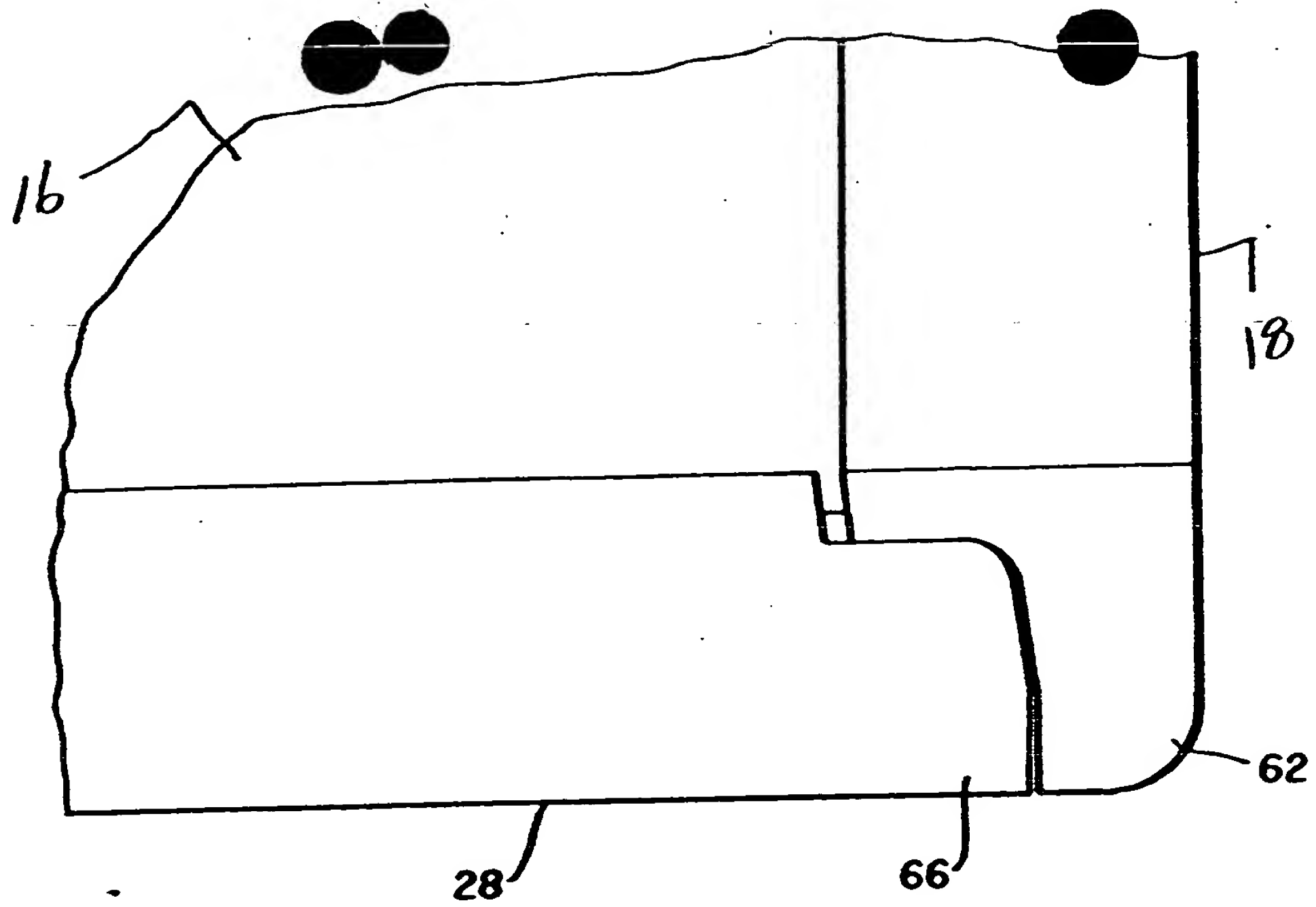


156

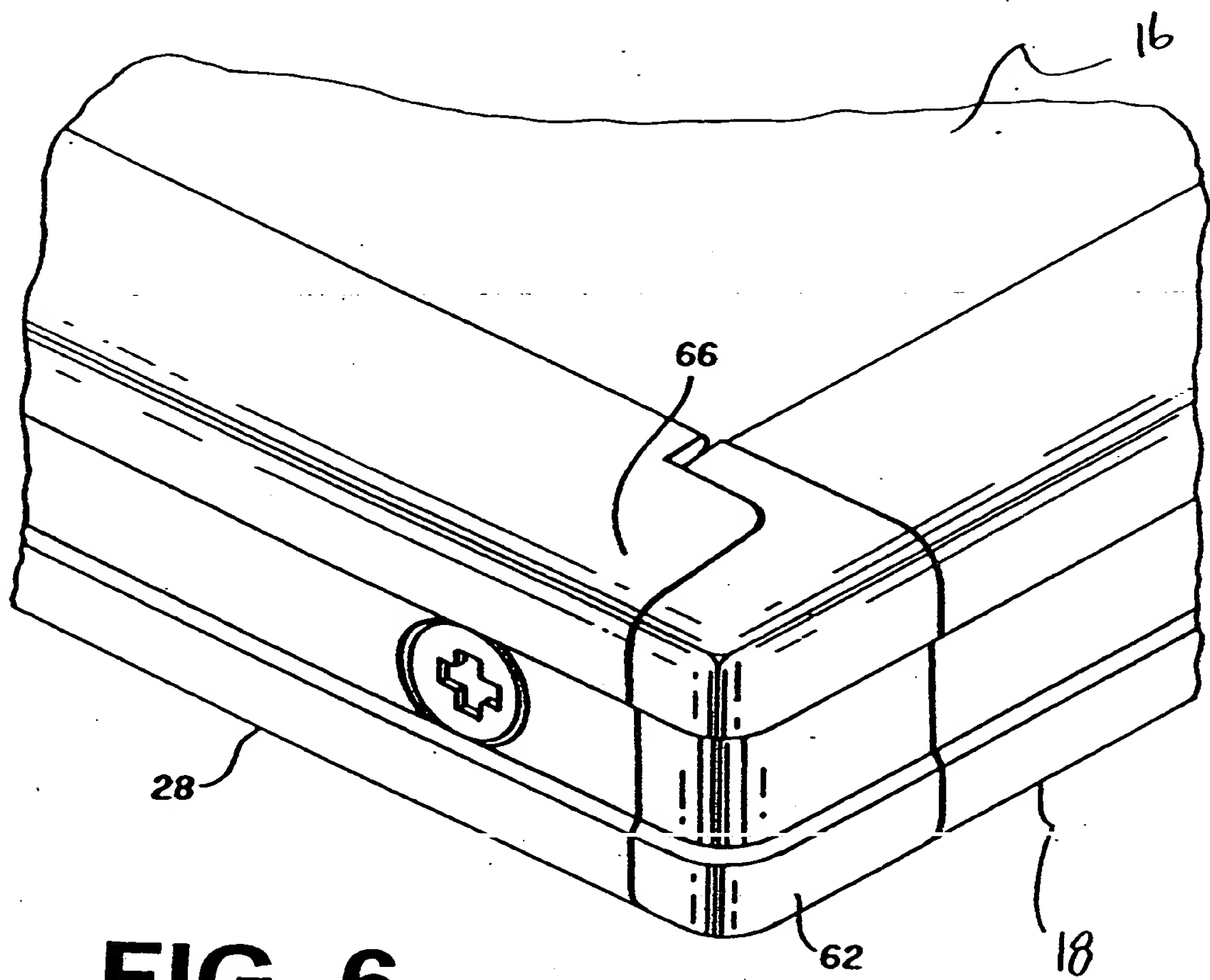


**FIG. 2**





**FIG. 5**



**FIG. 6**

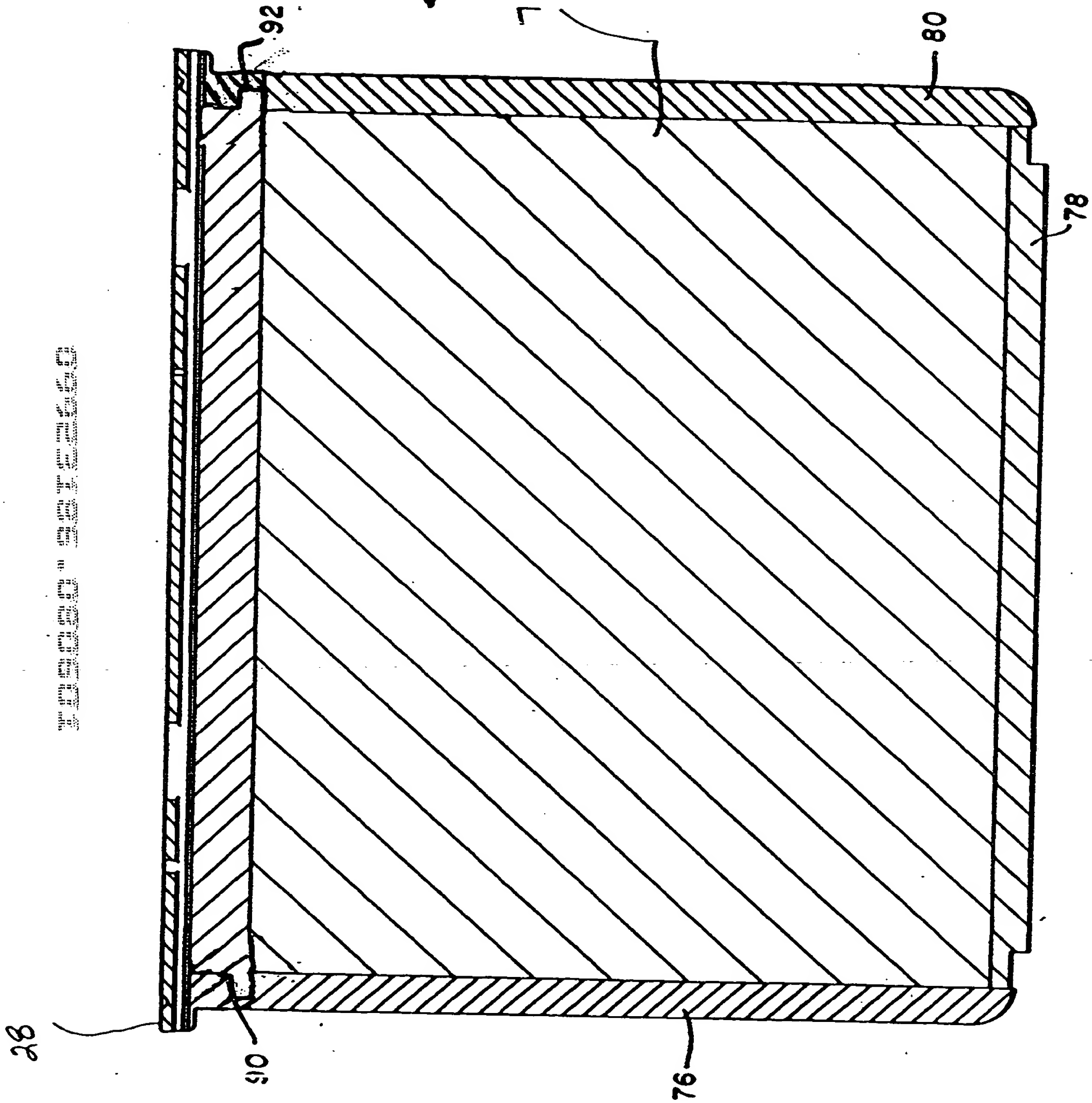
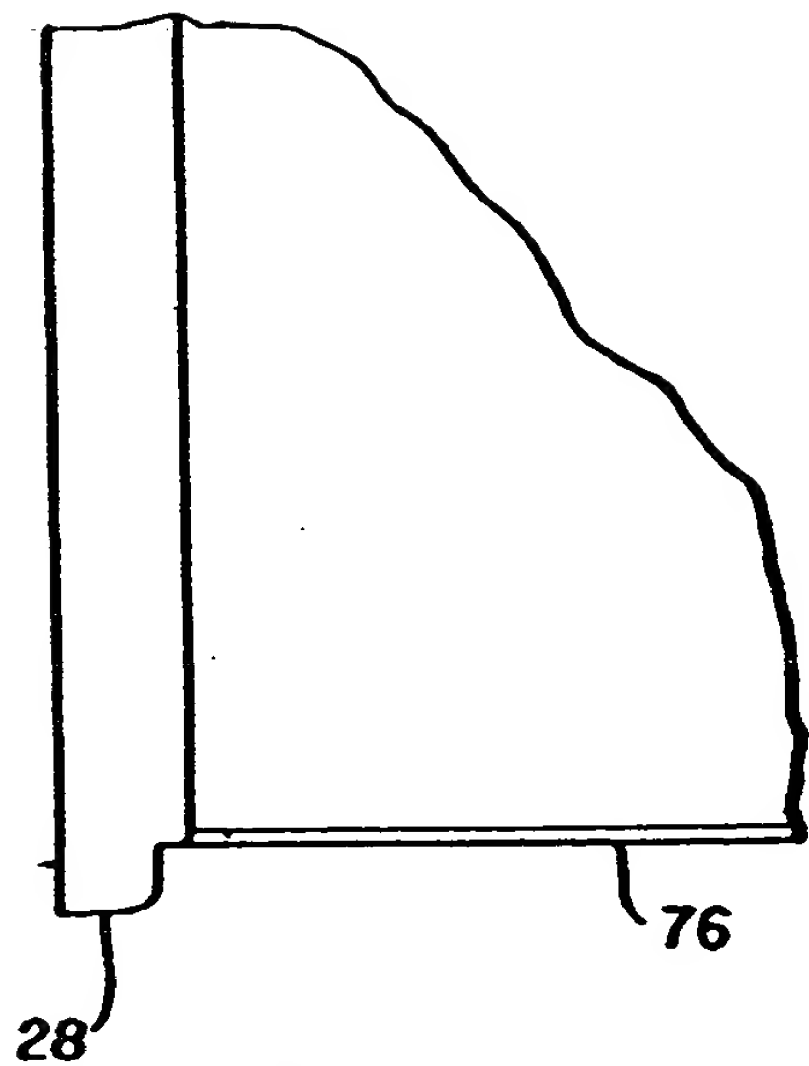
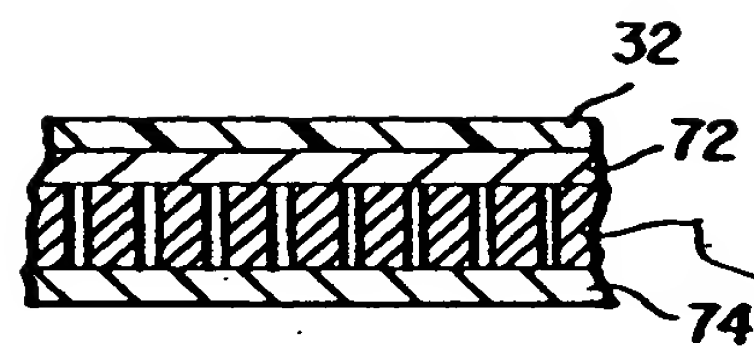


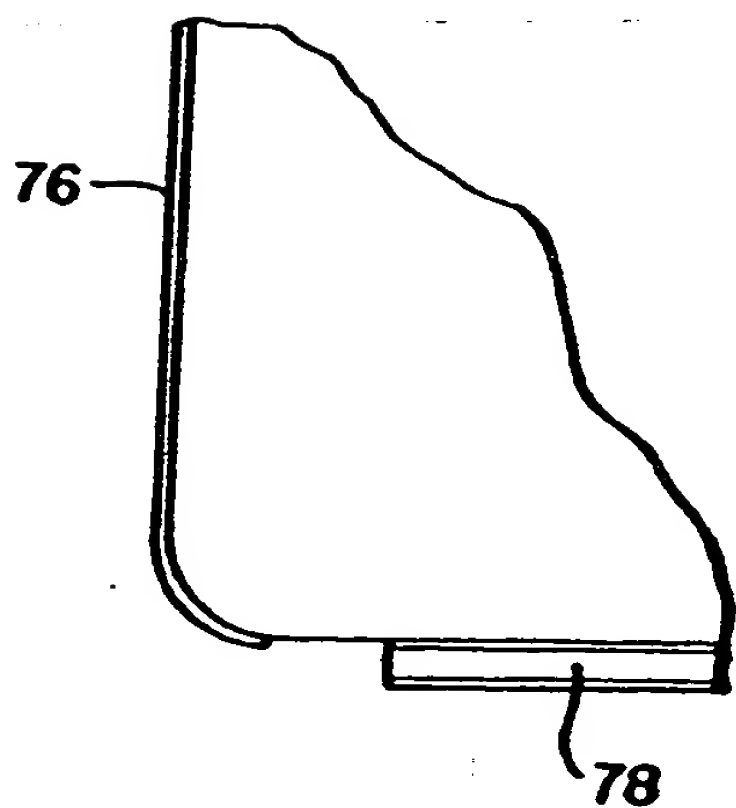
FIG. 7



**FIG. 8**



**FIG. 10**



**FIG. 9**

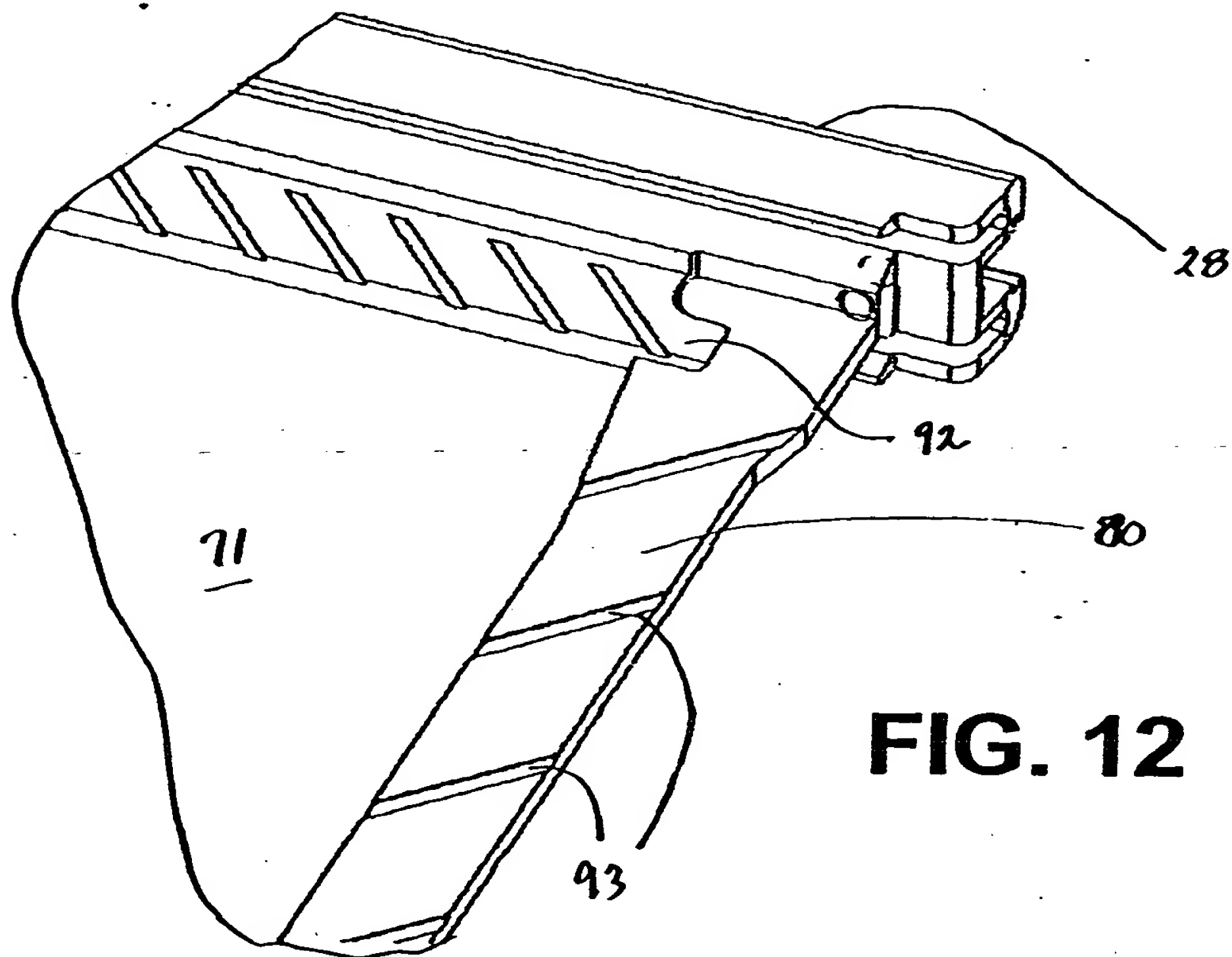
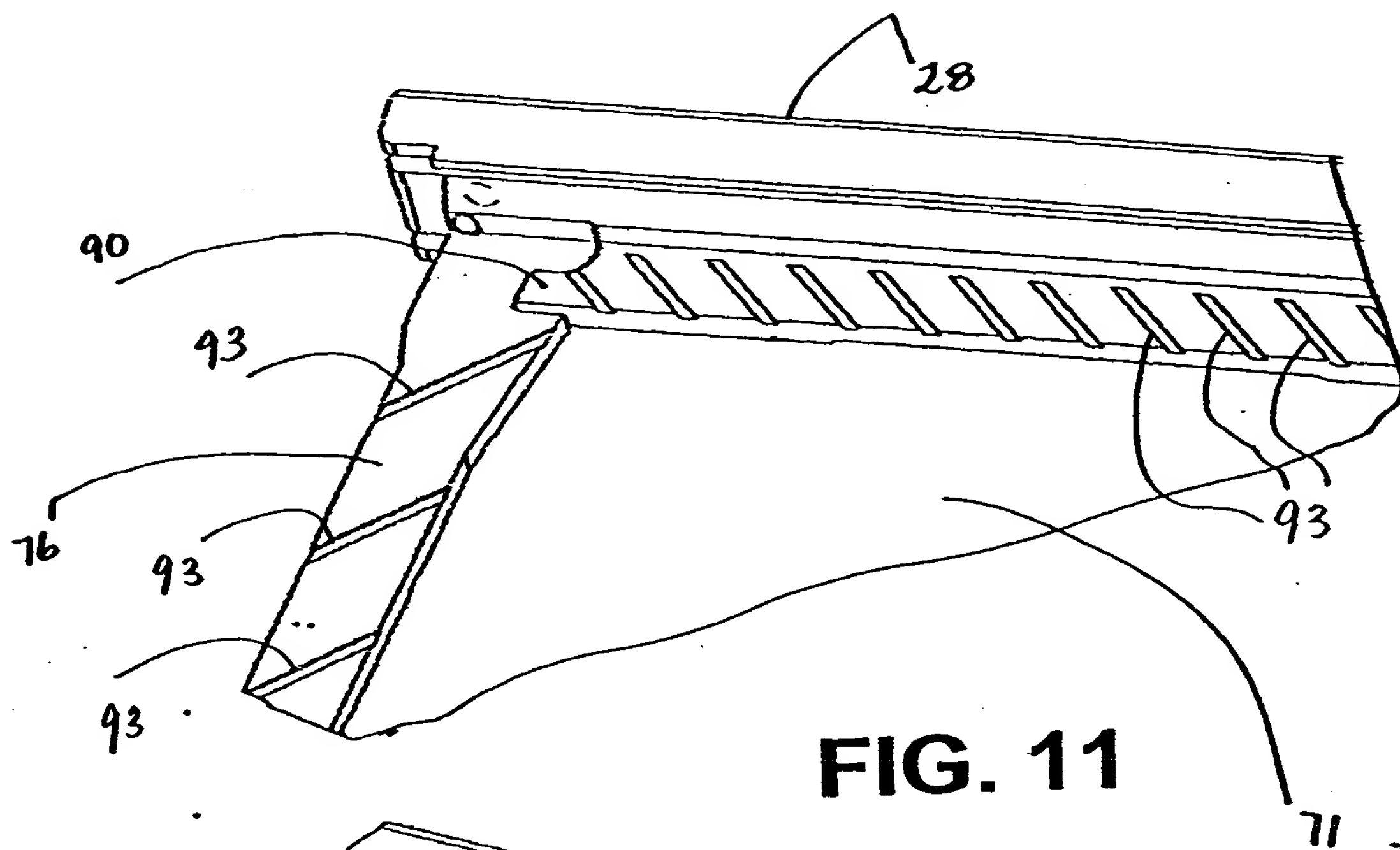


FIG. 13 is a perspective view of the device 100 in a closed position.

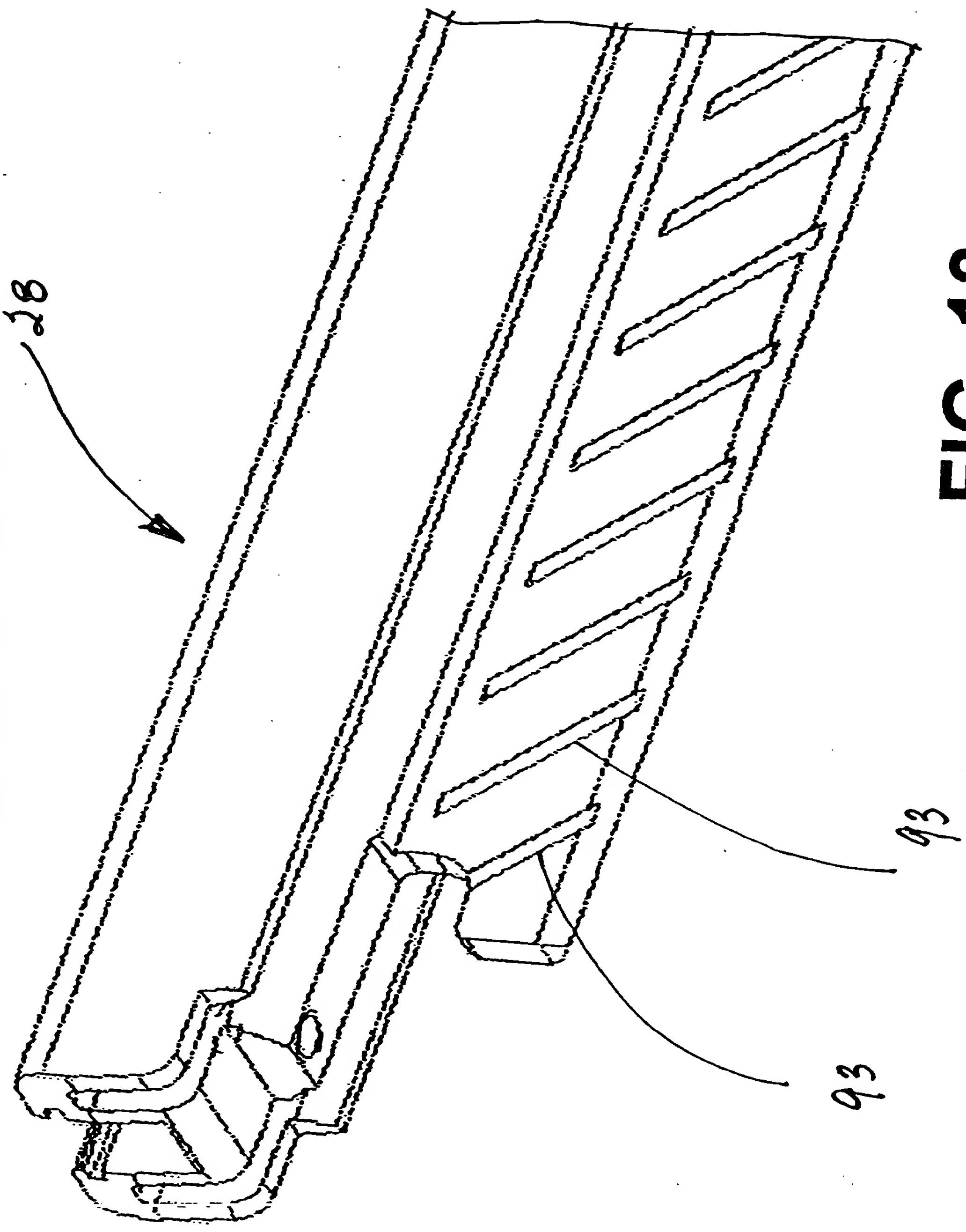


FIG. 13



FIG. 14 is a perspective view of a first embodiment of a device 100, which is a long, narrow, flexible strip of material. The strip is shown in a curved, S-shaped configuration. The strip is composed of a series of interconnected, diamond-shaped segments 102, which are joined at their corners by a series of small, circular fasteners 100. The fasteners are arranged in a regular, repeating pattern along the length of the strip. The strip is shown in a perspective view, with the top and bottom surfaces clearly visible. The top surface is a smooth, flat material, while the bottom surface is a series of interconnected, diamond-shaped segments. The strip is shown in a perspective view, with the top and bottom surfaces clearly visible. The top surface is a smooth, flat material, while the bottom surface is a series of interconnected, diamond-shaped segments.

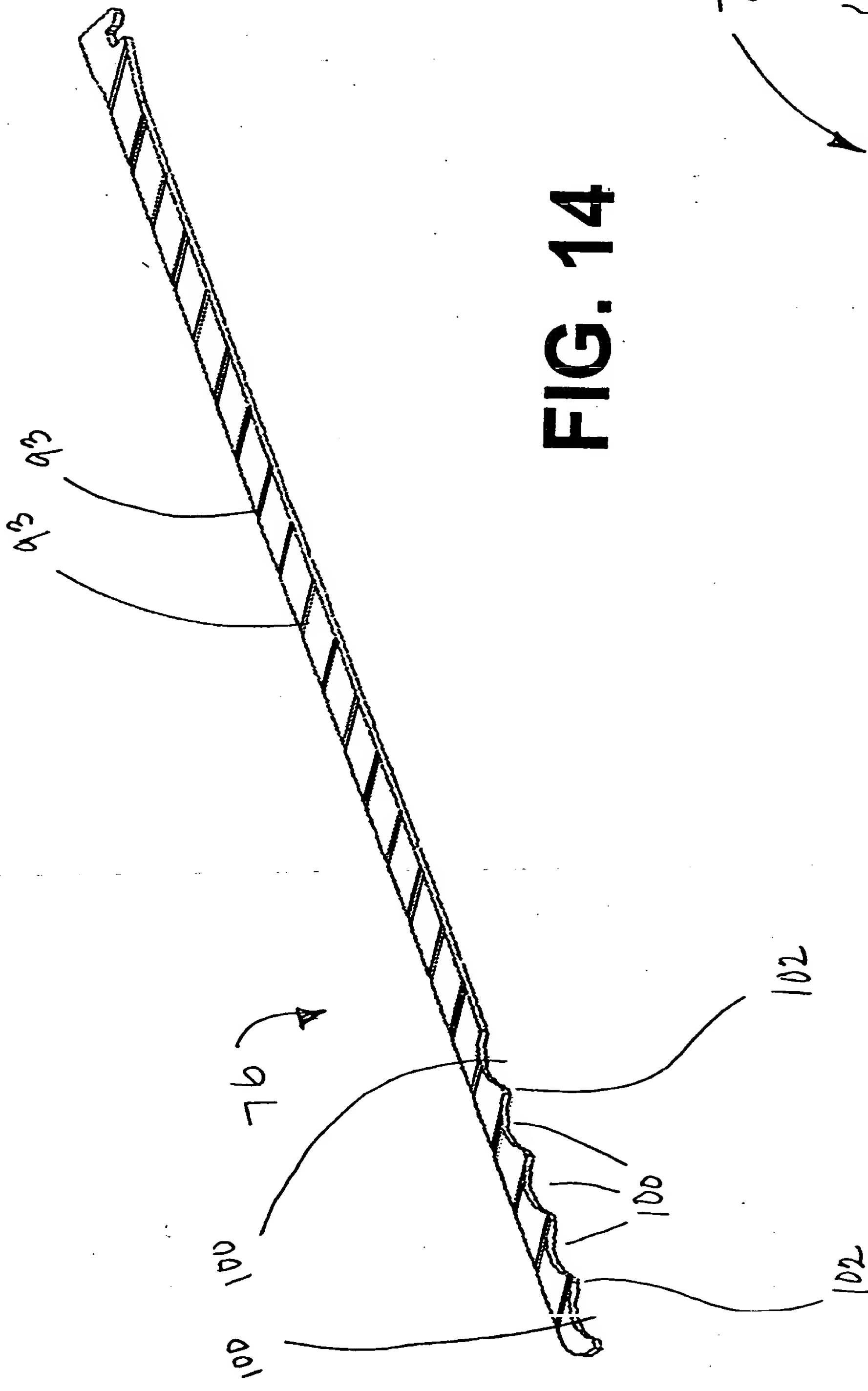


FIG. 14

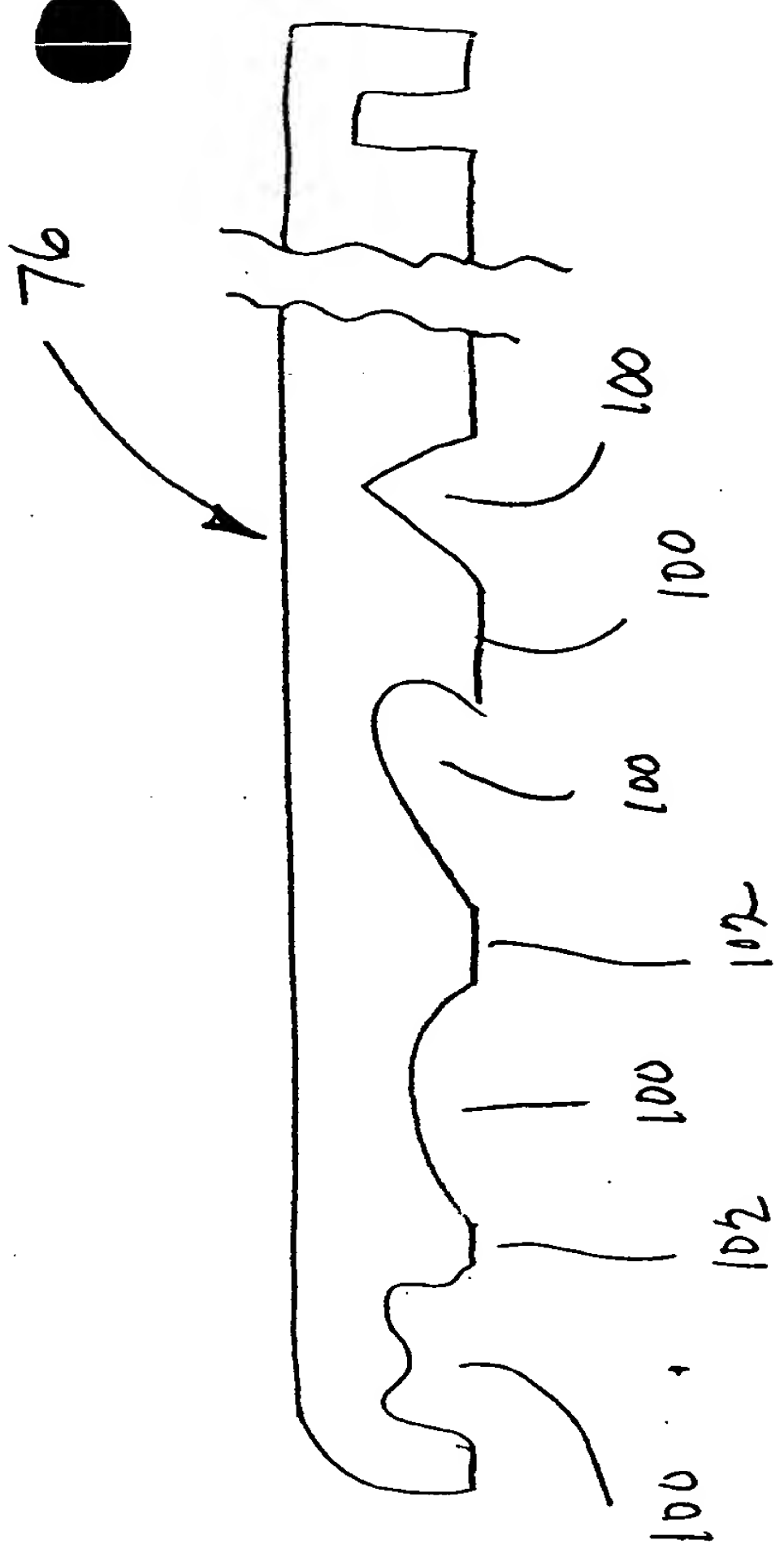
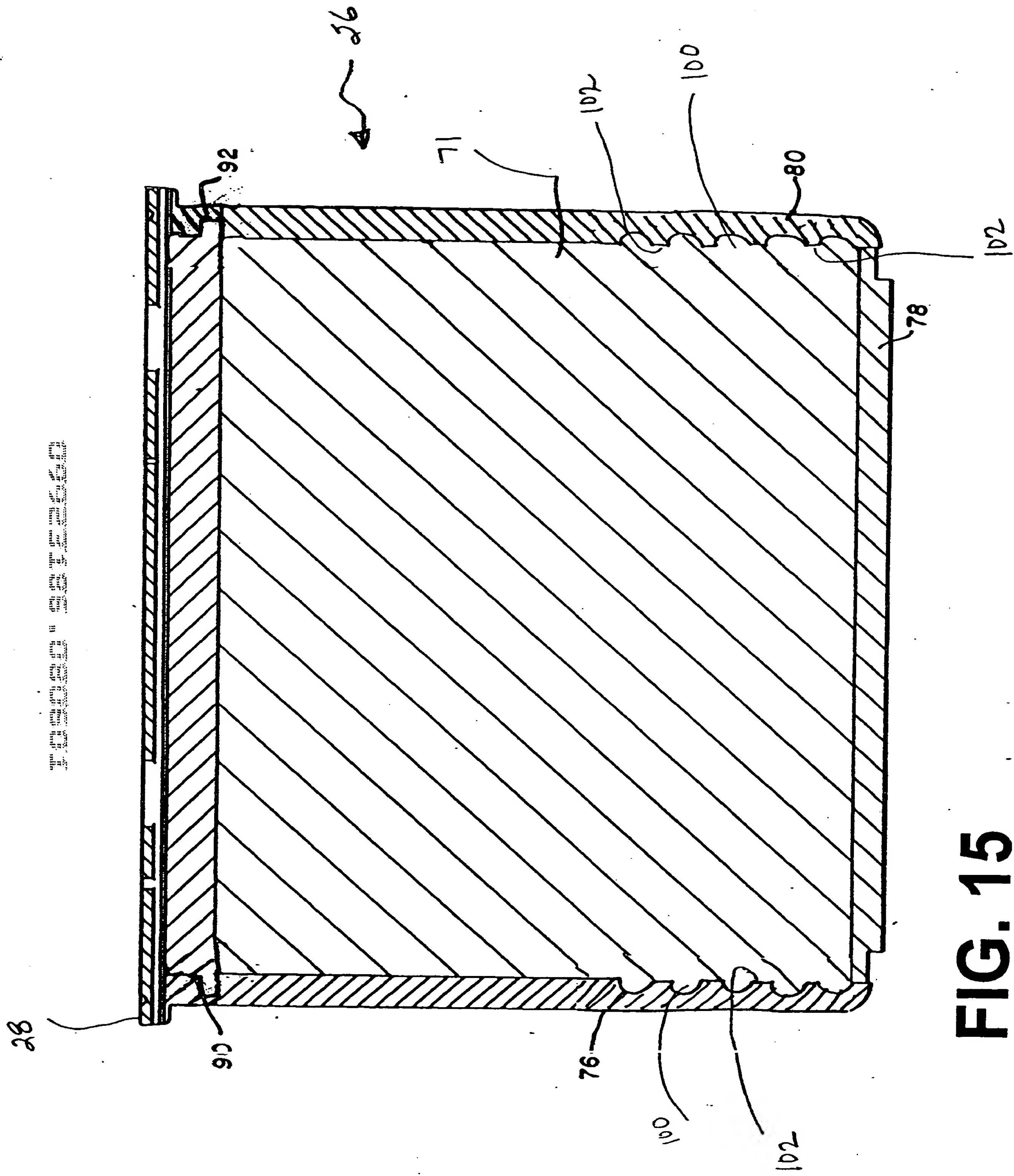
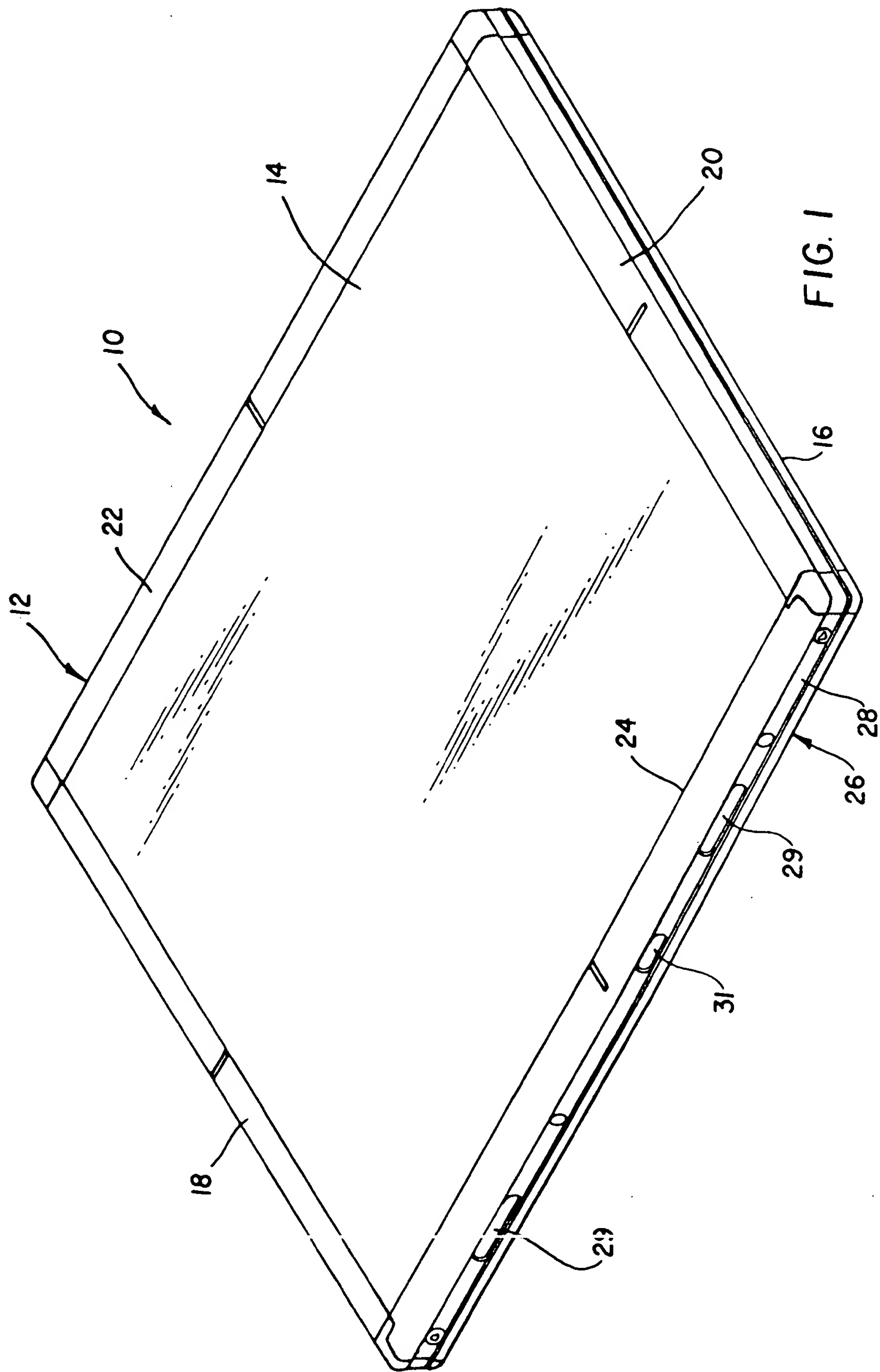


FIG. 16



**FIG. 15**



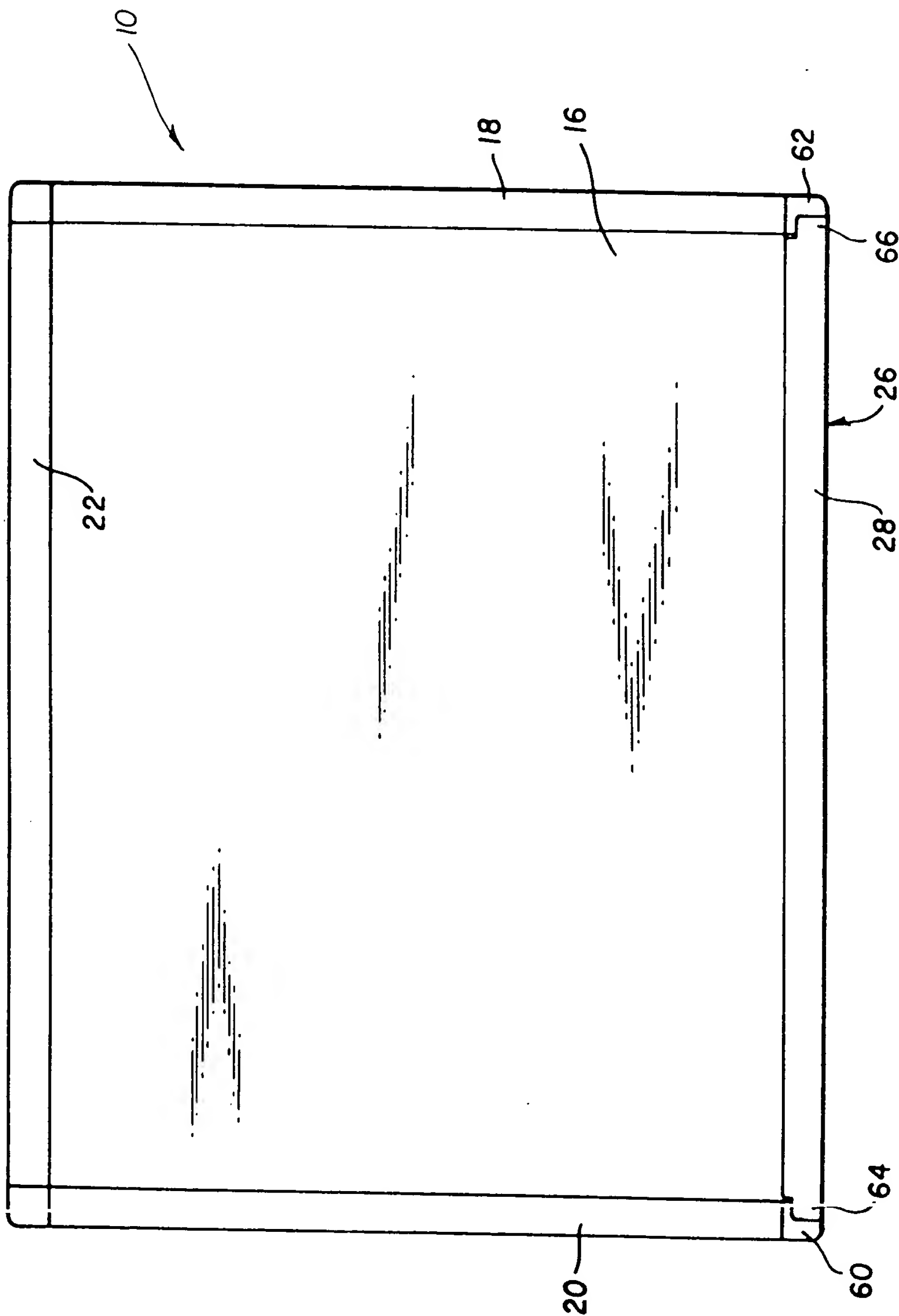
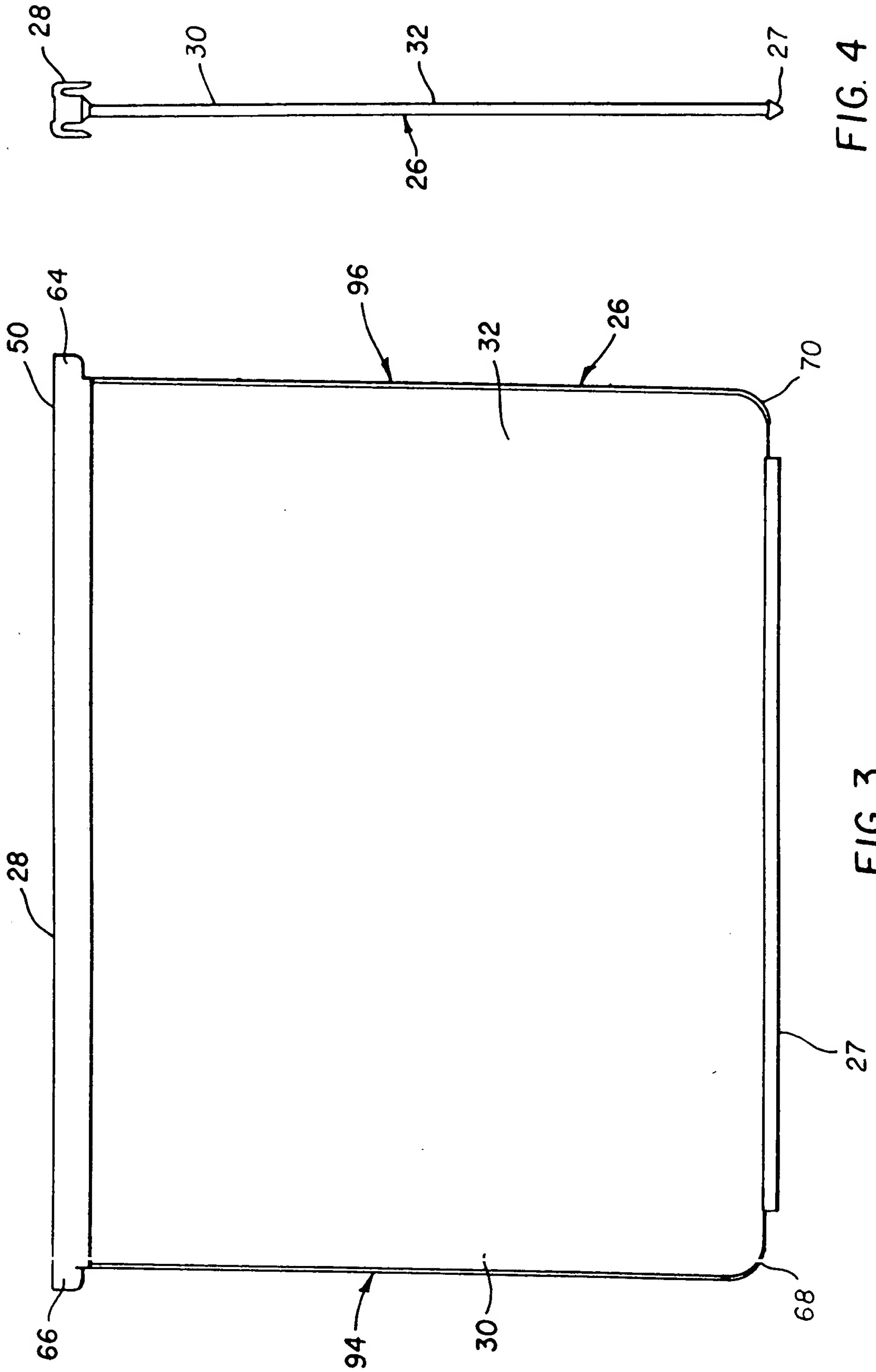
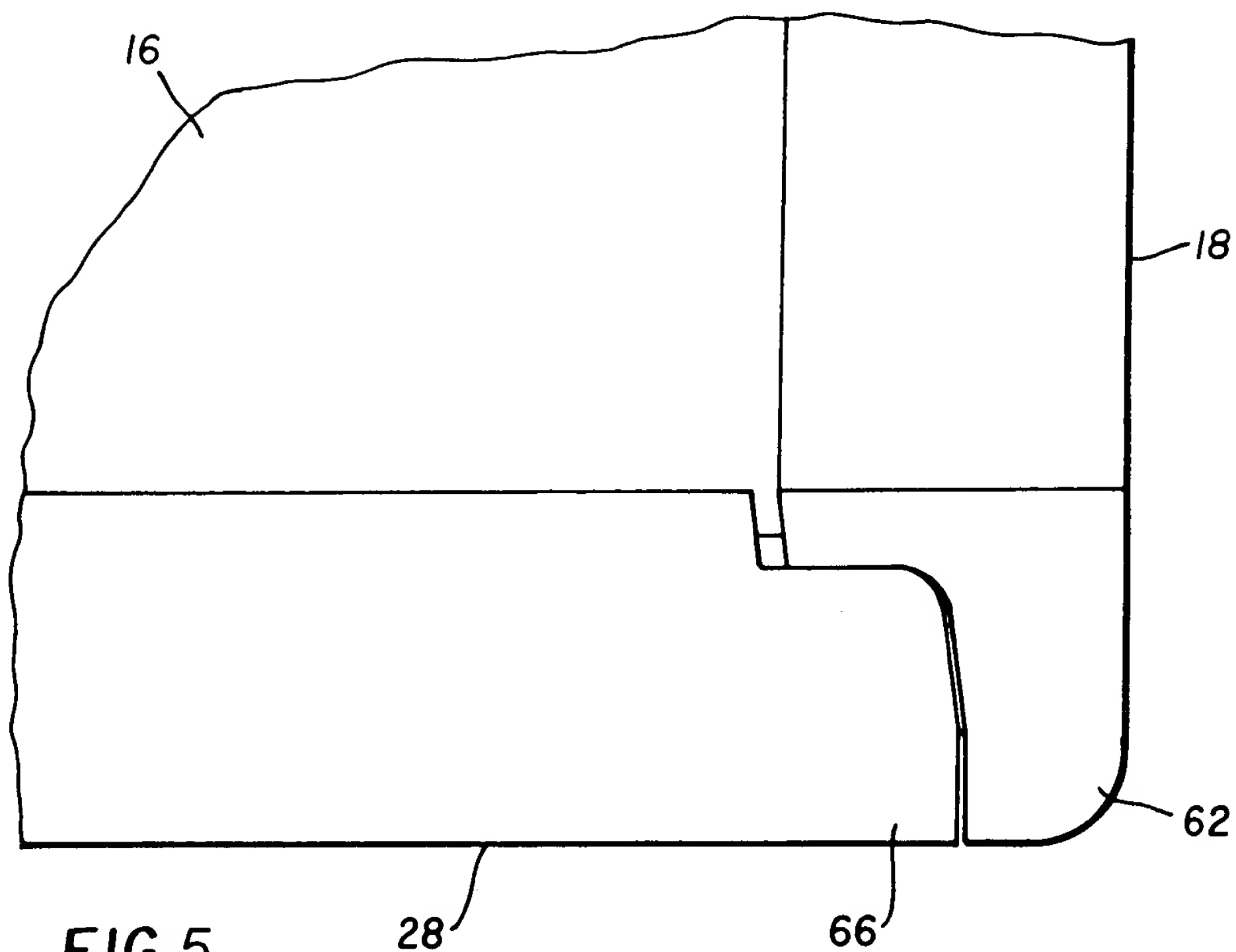


FIG. 2

205740 98752660





09/923,186 . 01.15.02

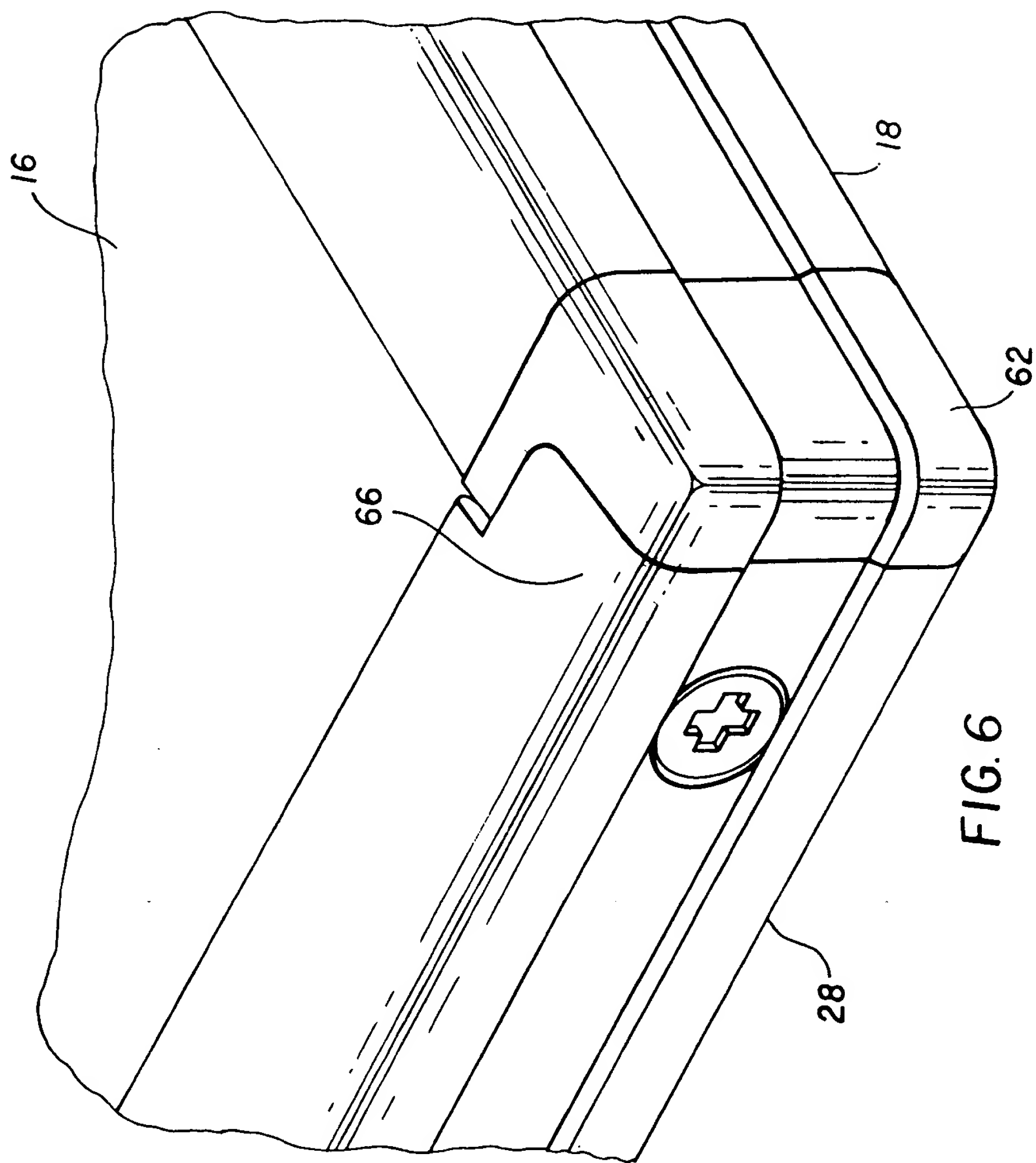


FIG. 6

20510 951550

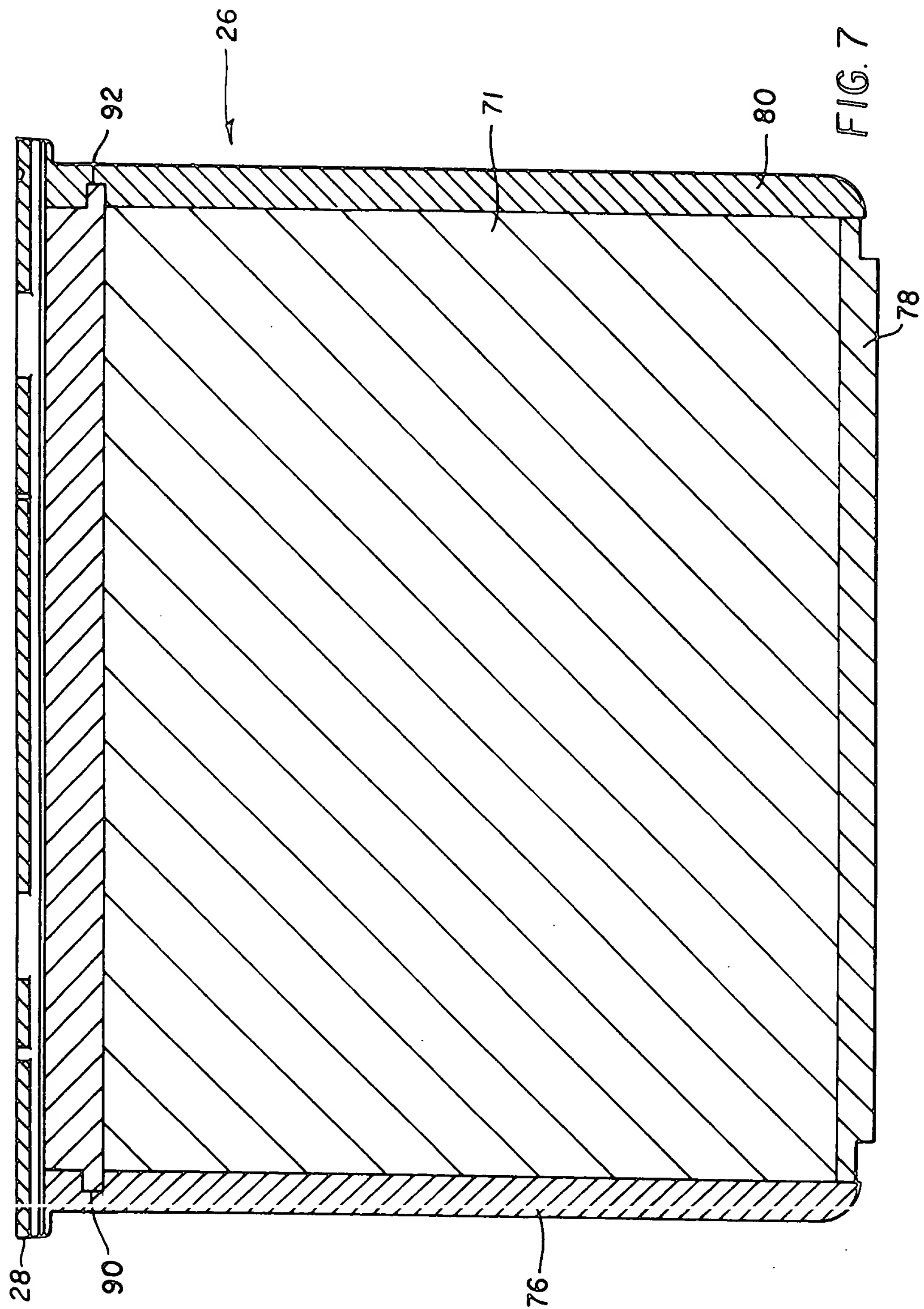


FIG. 7

205110 981650



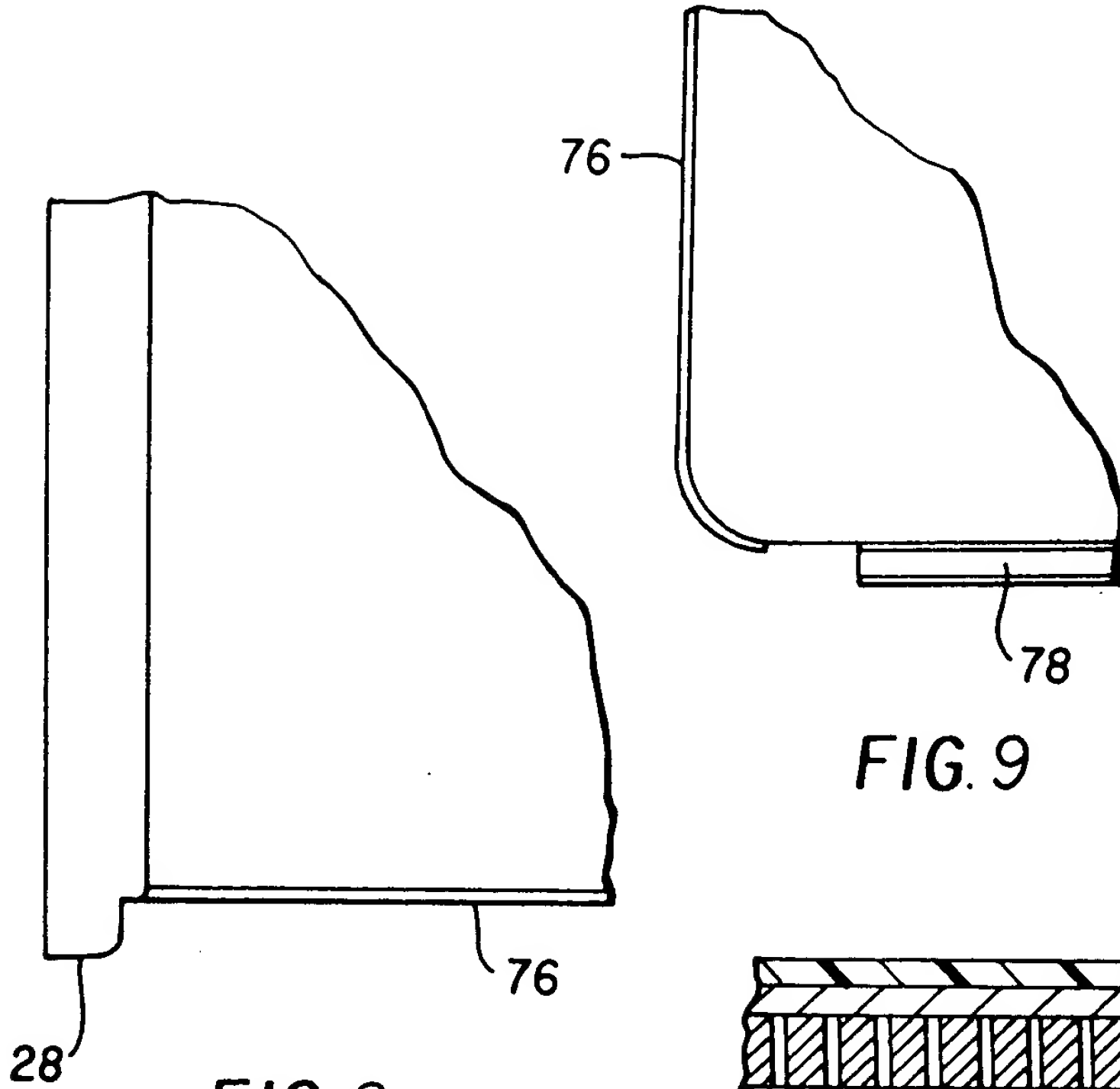


FIG. 9

FIG. 8

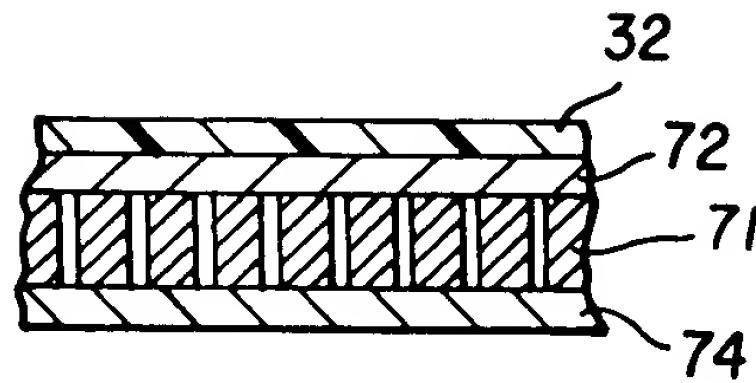
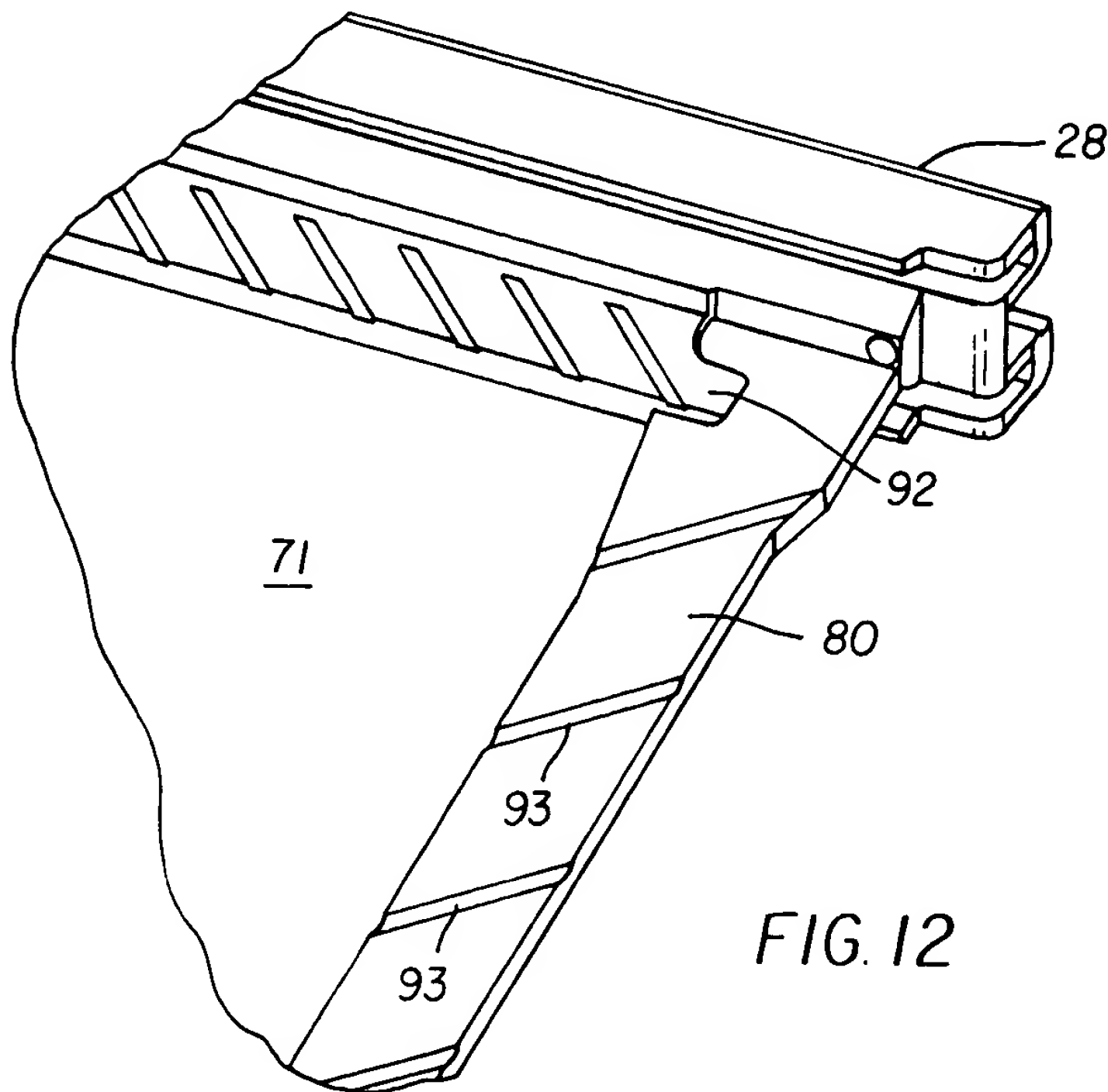
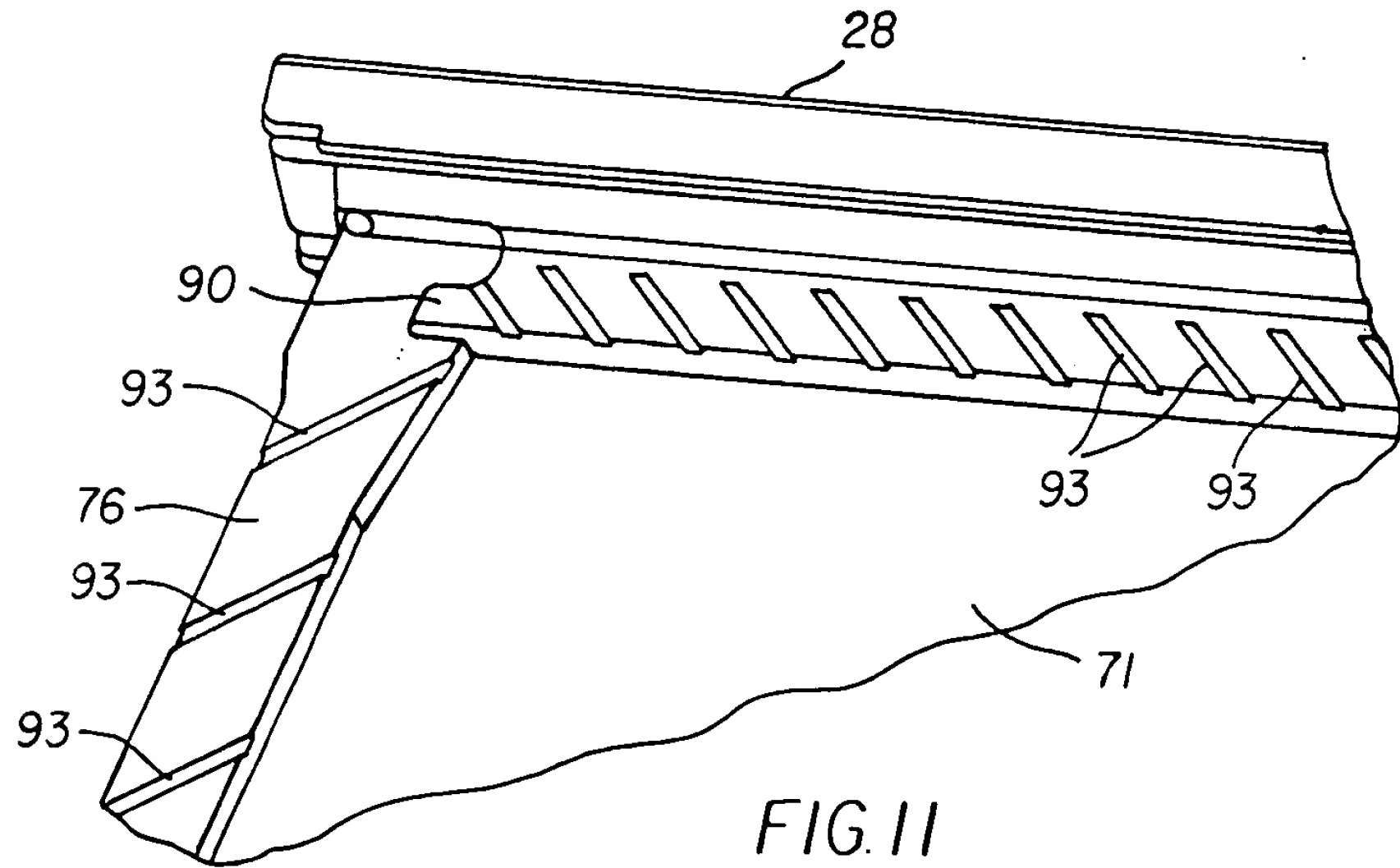


FIG. 10

09/923,186, 01:45:09



09923186 011602

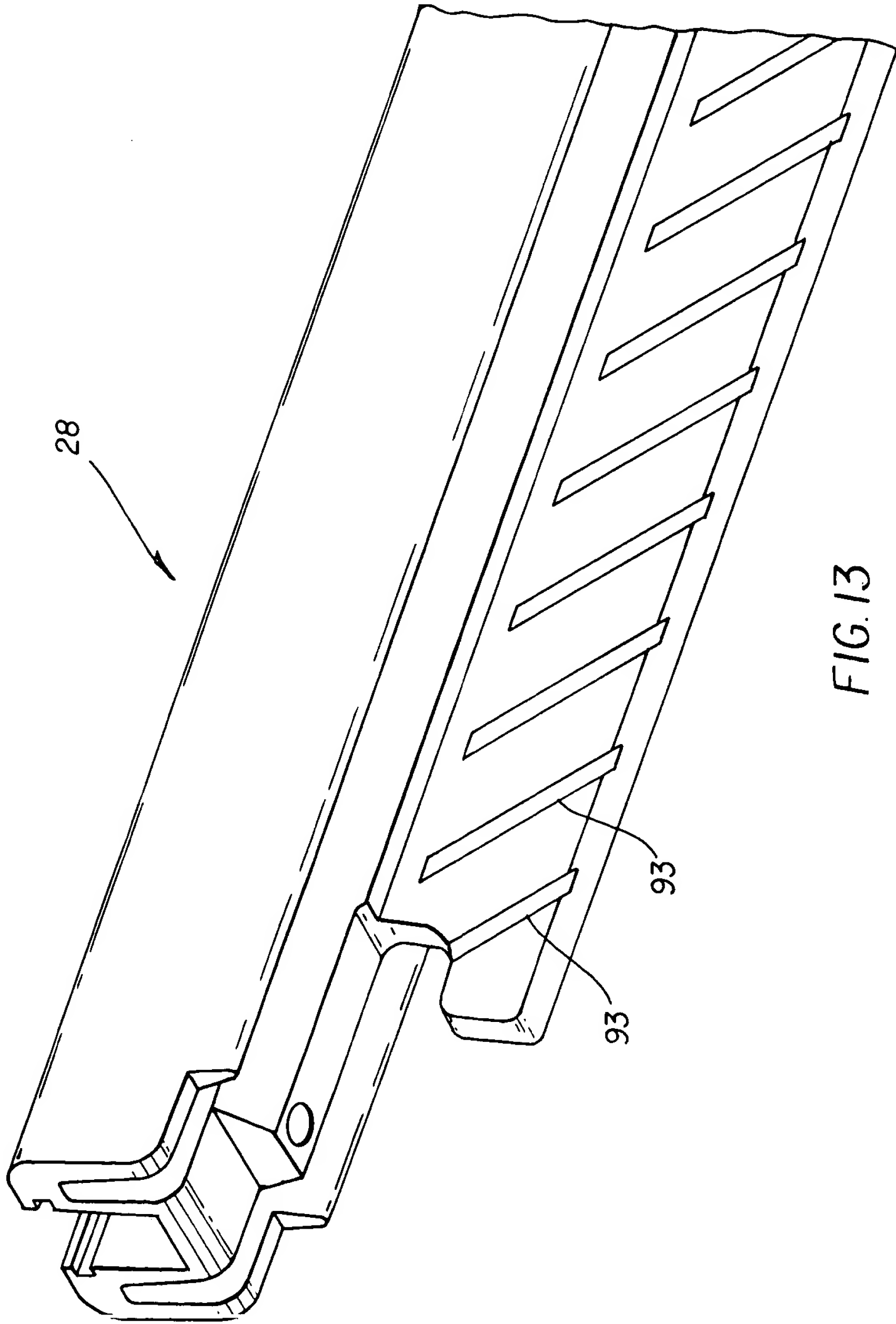


FIG. 13

205110-987650



205710" 937E2669

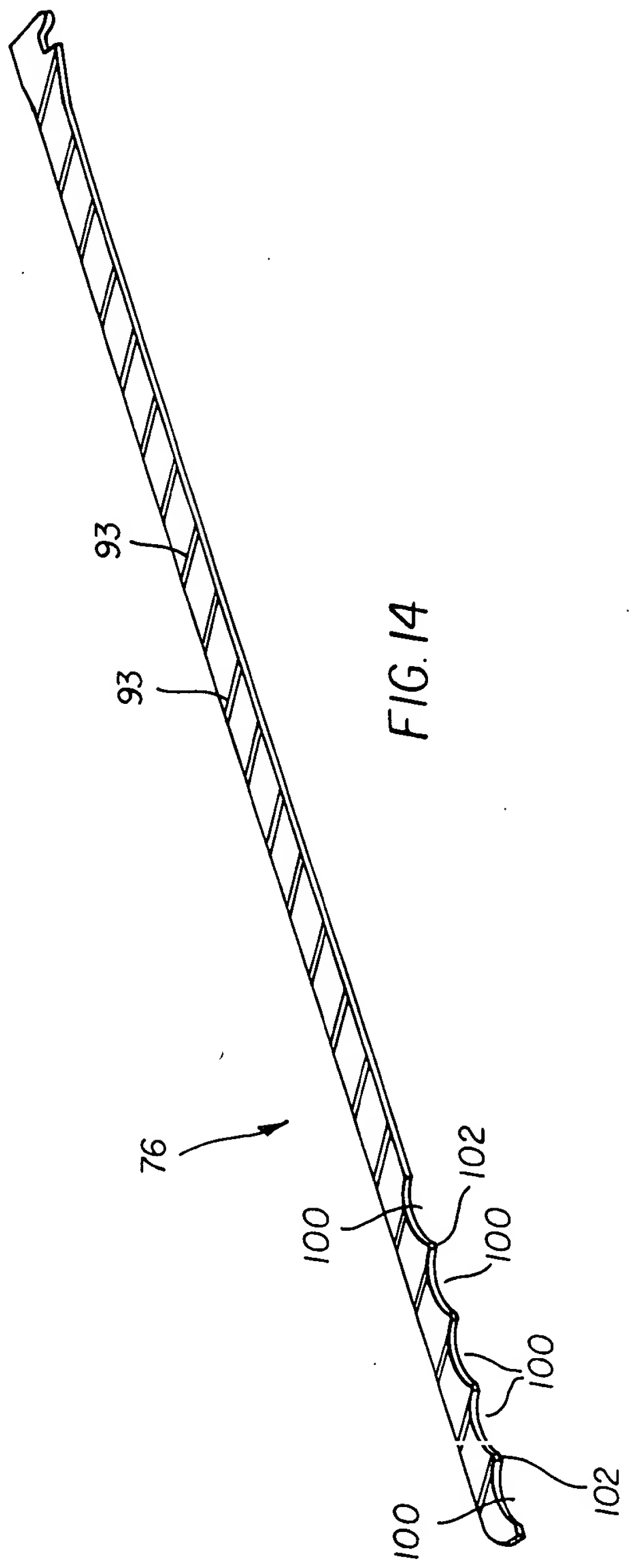


FIG. 14

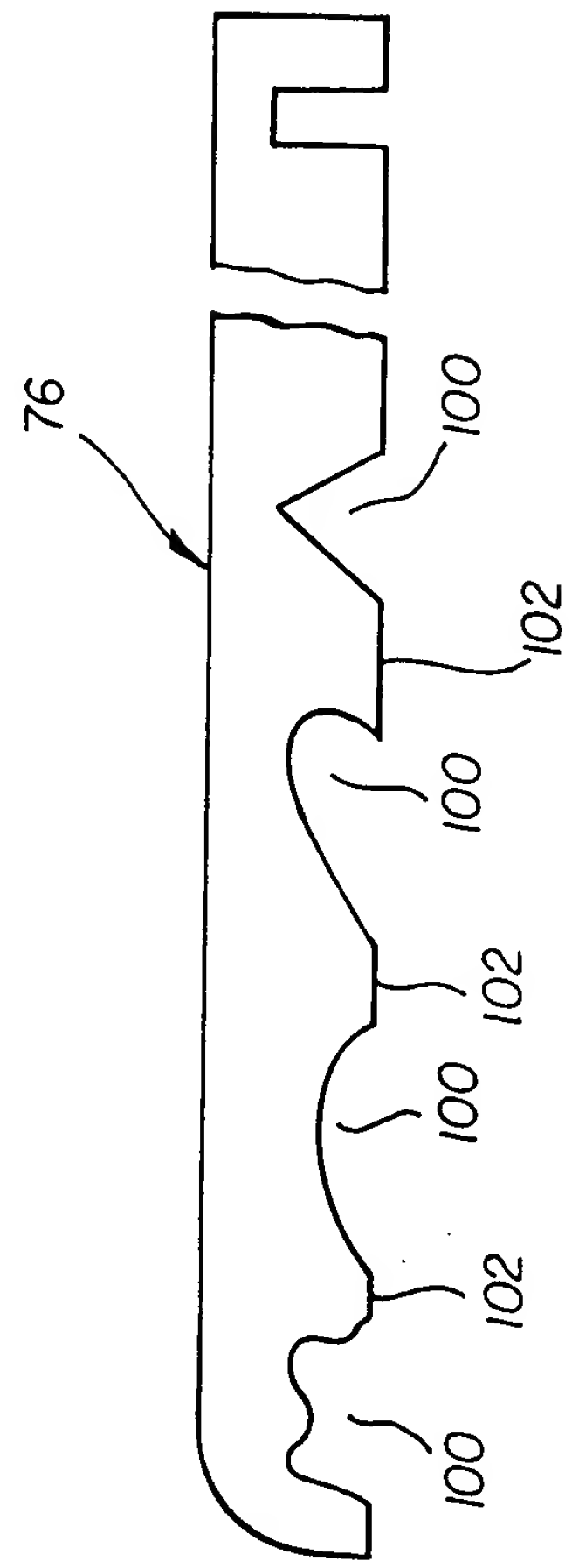
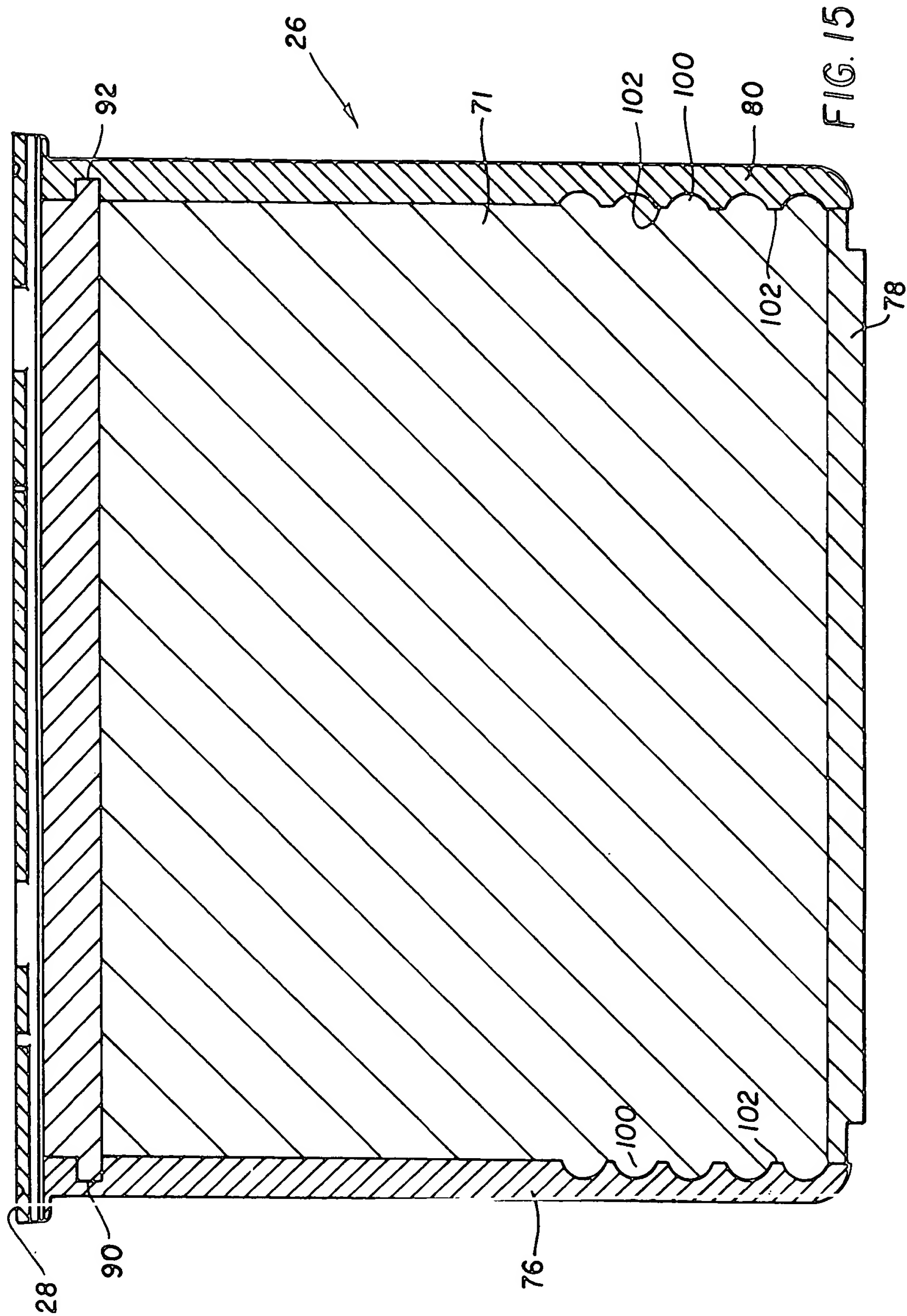


FIG. 16



205 F T O " 9 B F E 2 6 6 0